

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for identifying the location of medical facilities along a travel route, the
2 method comprising:

3 (a) mapping a travel route;

4 (b) providing a database of medical facilities, wherein the database includes the
5 name and location of each medical facility maintained therein;

6 (c) identifying one or more medical facilities along the travel route; and

7 (d) preparing an output of the identified medical facilities along the travel route,
8 the output including a name and address of each of the identified medical facilities.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the travel route is a flight plan.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more medical facilities comprises
2 hospitals and ambulance services.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more medical facilities is a plurality of
2 medical facilities.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the plurality of medical facilities comprises one or
2 more hospitals and one or more ambulance services.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the travel route is mapped by a software program.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the travel route is mapped manually.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying medical facilities along the travel
2 route includes a comparison of the mapped travel route to the locations of medical
3 facilities stored in the database.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the output is a written report.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the output is a computer readable file.

1 11. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of loading the computer
2 readable file into the on-board computer of an aircraft.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the output further includes a quality rating for at
2 least one of the one or more medical facilities.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the quality rating obtained for each medical
2 facility is based in part upon a telephonic interview with one or more personnel of each

3 medical facility to determine each facility's ability to handle one or more types of
4 medical emergencies.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is maintained within an electronic
2 storage device.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the output further includes a suitable stopping
2 point along a travel route.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the suitable stopping point is an airport.

1 17. The method of claim 1 that further comprised the step of selecting from the one or
2 more identified medical facilities a suitable medical facility.

1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the database further includes, for at least one of
2 the medical facilities in the database, information selected from the group consisting of:
3 (a) languages spoken, (b) proximity to suitable stopping points, (c) one or more medical
4 specialties offered, (d) a quality rating for at least one of the medical specialties offered,
5 and (e) payment methods accepted.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the output further includes, for at least one of the
2 medical facilities in the database, information from the group consisting of: (a) languages
3 spoken, (b) proximity to suitable stopping points, (c) one or more medical specialties
4 offered, (d) a quality rating for at least one of the medical specialties offered, and (e)
5 payment methods accepted.

1 20. A method for identifying a medical facility to a person moving along a travel
2 route, the method comprising:

3 (a) providing a database of medical facilities, the database including a name and
4 location for each of the medical facilities;

5 (b) establishing a non-verbal communications link between the vehicle and the
6 database;

7 (c) identifying the location of the person;

8 (d) identifying, based partly on the location of the person, a medical facility; and

9 (e) communicating the name and location of the identified medical facility to the
10 person via the non-verbal communications link.

1 20. The method of claim 20 wherein the person is traveling in a vehicle.

- 1 21. The method of claim 21 wherein the vehicle is selected from the group consisting
2 of an automobile, a plane, a boat, and a train.
- 1 22. The method of claim 20 wherein the database of medical facilities includes a
2 phone number for at least some of the medical facilities.
- 1 23. The method of claim 20 wherein the person identifies his/her position by inputting
2 it using a keyboard.
- 1 24. The method of claim 20 wherein the person identifies his/her position by inputting
2 it using a keypad of a wireless electronic device.
- 1 25. The method of claim 20 wherein the database of medical facilities includes a
2 quality rating for one or more of the medical facilities.
- 1 26. The method of claim 20 wherein the database of medical facilities includes the
2 types of medical emergencies at least one of the medical facilities is equipped to handle.
- 1 27. The method of claim 23 wherein the phone number for the identified medical
2 facility is communicated to the traveler.
- 1 28. A method of identifying medical facilities along a travel route, the method
2 comprising:
3 (a) comparing the travel route to a database containing medical facility
4 information; and
5 (b) identifying at least one medical facility on or near the travel route based on
6 the comparison.
- 1 29. The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of calculating the travel route.
- 1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein the travel route is calculated using software.
- 1 31. The method of claim 29 that further includes the step of identifying a suitable
2 stopping point along the travel route.
- 1 32. The method of claim 29 wherein the travel route is a flight plan.
- 1 33. The method of claim 30 wherein the travel route is a flight plan and the method
2 further includes the step of identifying one or more suitable stopping points, wherein each
3 of the suitable stopping points is an airport.
- 1 34. The method of claim 32 wherein the medical facility is determined by one or
2 more of the factors selected from the group consisting of: (a) distance of the medical
3 facility from potential suitable stopping points, (b) type of medical services provided by

the medical facility, (c) hours of operation of the medical facility, (d) available emergency equipment at the medical facility, (e) payment options available at the medical facility, and (f) cleanliness of the medical facility.

35. The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of displaying the travel route and identified medical facilities on at least one of an electronic screen and a printed document.

36. The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of displaying the identified medical facilities on at least one of an electronic screen and a printed document.

37. The method according to claim 29 further comprising the step of downloading and storing information pertaining to identified medical facilities.

38. The method according to claim 34 wherein the downloaded and stored information includes at least one of the following: (a) types of medical services available at each identified medical facility; (b) the location of each identified medical facility; (c) the hours of operation for each identified medical facility; (d) contact information for each identified medical facility; and (e) languages spoken at each identified medical facility.

39. The method of claim 29 wherein the steps of determining, comparing and identifying are performed by a processing device reading machine-readable code.

40. The method according to claim 29 wherein the steps of comparing and identifying are performed by a processing device reading machine-readable code.

41. The method according to claim 38 wherein the downloaded and stored information includes a rating of one or more of the identified medical facilities.

42. The method according to claim 42 wherein the rating is based on at least one of the following: (a) an overall quality of the medical facility, and (b) a medical specialty available at the medical facility.

43. A system for determining medical facilities along a travel route, the system comprising:

- (a) an input device for providing location information;
- (b) a memory storing a database containing information relating to a plurality of medical facilities;

6 (c) a processor operative to identify at least one medical facility based on the
7 provided location information and information contained within the database; and
8 (d) a display operative to show the identified at least one medical facility along
9 the travel route.

1 44. The system according to claim 44 wherein the provided location information
2 comprises a starting point and a destination point and wherein the memory also stores
3 navigational information for calculating a travel route based on the location information.

1 45. The system according to claim 44 wherein the input device comprises a global
2 positioning system (GPS) receiver.

1 46. The system according to claim 44 wherein the display comprises one of an LCD,
2 LED and CRT display.

1 47. The system according to claim 44 wherein the display comprises a printing device.

1 48. The system according to claim 44 wherein the input device comprises means for a
2 user to input information relative to determining the at least one medical facility along the
3 travel route.

1 49. A method of locating a medical facility for a vehicle in transit, the method
2 comprising:

3 (a) determining a current location of the vehicle in transit;

4 (b) comparing the current location of the vehicle in transit with locations of
5 medical facilities stored in a database;

6 (c) identifying at least one medical facility near the current location of the vehicle
7 based on the comparison; and

8 (d) displaying the location of at least one medical facility to a user.

1 50. The method of claim 50 wherein the vehicle in transit is one of a train, a bus, a
2 boat, an aircraft, an automobile and a motorcycle.

1 51. The method of claim 50 further comprising the step of selecting, by a user, a
2 medical facility from the displayed at least one medical facility.

1 52. The method of claim 50 further comprising providing navigational instructions for
2 the vehicle in transit to reach the selected medical facility.

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- 1 53. The method of claim 50 wherein before determining the at least one medical
2 facility, the method further comprises the step of inputting information relative to the
3 medical emergency in order to assist in identifying the at least one medical facility.
- 1 54. The method of claim 50 wherein the inputted information includes for comparing
2 with the database at least one of: a type of medical emergency, a language preference, a
3 type of insurance coverage, and a maximum distance from the current location to a
4 medical facility.
- 1 55. A method of identifying medical facilities along a flight route, the method
2 comprising:
- 3 (a) inputting navigational information pertaining to the flight route; and
4 (b) combining the navigational information with medical facility information
5 stored in a database, the medical facility information including location and contact
6 information of a plurality of medical facilities.
- 1 56. The method of claim 56 wherein each medical facility is a predetermined distance
2 from airports along the flight route.
- 1 57. A database containing information related to medical facilities, the database
2 configured to be accessed by a processor processing flight plan software to produce at
3 least one potential emergency diversion site along a flight path.
- 1 58. A computer program having machine readable code stored on a tangible medium
2 comprising:
- 3 (a) code for obtaining travel location information;
4 (b) code for accessing information in a medical facility database;
5 (c) code for identifying at least one medical facility based on obtained travel
6 location information and accessed information from the medical facility database; and
7 (d) code for generating a display of the at least one identified medical facility.
- 1 59. A system for identifying medical facilities along a travel route, the method
2 comprising:
- 3 (a) means for providing travel location information;
4 (b) means for storing a database containing information relating to a plurality of
5 medical facilities;

(c) means for identifying at least one medical facility based on the provided travel location information and information contained within the database; and

(d) means for displaying the information related to the identified at least one medical facility.

60. The method of claim 60 wherein the steps of comparing and identifying are performed on a website server.

61. The method of claim 60 wherein directions to the medical facility are also communicated via the communications link.

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